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CLAIMS

1. A method of applying and monitoring an epidermal surfactant that has been applied to the skin of a person comprising the steps of :
 - 5 placing an image along the surface of a substrate; and
 - depositing a surfactant on a defined area along the surface of the substrate; wherein the image operates to indicate the quantity or the continuing effectiveness of the surfactant.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the image is placed along the surface of the substrate using a printing process.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the printing process selected from the group consisting of offset printing, lithographic printing, flexographic printing, gravure printing, screen printing, ink jet printing, laser printing, pad printing, and digital printing processes.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is applied to the surface of a substrate by the method selected from the group consisting of spraying, splashing, dipping, extrusion or coating processes.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of using the image as an indicator for determining when the total effective amount of surfactant has been dissipated.

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6. In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the method of the present invention comprises the steps of placing an article for applying and monitoring a surfactant on various parts of the user's skin, and applying a rubbing force such that the surfactant is distributed along the skin of the user.

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7. An article for applying and monitoring a surfactant comprising:
a substrate;
an image positioned along the surface of the substrate; and
and a surfactant deposited on defined areas of the substrate.

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8. The article of Claim 7 wherein said surfactant is an epidermal surfactant.
9. The article of Claim 7 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of lathering agents, fragrance additives, vitamin compounds, skin treatment agents, anti-inflammatory activates, topical anesthetics, anti-microbial activates, anti-fungal activates, anti-viral agents, enzymes, skin exfoliating agents, anti-acne activates, anti-wrinkle, anti-skin atrophy and skin repair activates, skin barrier repair activates, non-steroidal cosmetic soothing activates, artificial tanning agents and accelerators, skin tightening activates, sunscreen activates, sebum stimulators, sebum inhibitors, anti-oxidants, protease inhibitors, anti-itch ingredients, hair growth inhibitors, 5-alpha reductase inhibitors, desquamating enzyme enhancers, anti-glycation agents, and mixtures thereof.

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10. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image is formed from an ink selected from the group consisting of thermochromic inks, photochromic inks, hydrochromic inks, edible inks, and piezochromic inks.

5 11. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image is formed from a vegetable based printing ink.

12. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image formed from a decal formed from a material that dissolves in water.

10 13. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image formed from a coating formed from a material that dissolves in water.

15 14. The article of Claim 12 wherein said decal is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of hydrogels, compressed sugars, compressed salts, polymers and oligomers, gelatin, pectin, corn starch, and soaps.

20 15. The article of Claim 13 wherein said coating is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of hydrogels, compressed sugars, compressed salts, polymers and oligomers, gelatin, pectin, corn starch, and soaps.

16. The article of Claim 7 wherein said substrate is formed from a material capable of absorbing and retaining a substantial quantity of the surfactant.

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17. The article of Claim 7 wherein said substrate is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cloth of natural or synthetic fiber, a sponge-like synthetic composition, and woven and non-woven materials.

5 18. The article of Claim 7 wherein said substrate is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of hydrogels, compressed sugars, compressed salts, polymers and oligomers, gelatin, pectin, corn starch, and soaps.

10 19. The article of Claim 7 further comprising means for securing to the skin of the user.

20. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image operates by disappearing as the surfactant dissipates.

15 21. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image is a transparent image that becomes visible as the surfactant dissipates.

22. The article of Claim 7 wherein said image changes color as the surfactant dissipates.

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23. The article of Claim 7 wherein said substrate has a first surface having a first surfactant thereon and a second surface having a second surfactant thereon.

25 24. The article of Claim 7 wherein the image is covered by a coating effective for controlling the disappearance time of the image.

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25. The article of Claim 24 wherein said coating is formed from a wax.